

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /098 W
-----281511Z 010880 /43

R 281345Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0064
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PORT SAID
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION SINAI
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR EG IS US UR XF XG
SUBJECT: GOE STEPS UP PUBLIC ASPECTS OF MIDDLE EAST
PEACE OFFENSIVE
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REF: (A) CAIRO 17723 (B) CAIRO 17786

1. GOE, WITH FONMIN FAHMY AT CENTER STAGE, IS CONTINUING TO
STEP UP PUBLIC ASPECTS OF "PEACE OFFENSIVE" DESIGNED TO BRING
ISRAEL AND ARABS, INCLUDING PLO, TOGETHER FOR SETTLEMENT

TALKS AT GENEVA BY END OF MARCH. LATEST SALVO WAS FAHMY'S WIDELY REPORTED APPEAL THROUGH LOCAL DPA CORRESPONDENT TO EUROPE PUBLISHED DECEMBER 28 FOR /PRACTICAL STAND...AND CONCERTED ACTION IN A PRAGMATIC WAY" DURING 1977 TO PUSH TOWARDS FINAL MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. "DEFINITIVE STAND" MUST COVER MAIN ISSUES RELATED TO FRONTIERS, MILITARY AND POLITICAL GUARANTEES AND STAND TOWARDS PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. FAHMY ADDED THAT IT SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM FOR EUROPEANS TO RECOGNIZE PLO SINCE ISRAEL HERSELF HAS "RECOGNIZED PLO BY DEMANDING THAT IT RECOGNIZE ISRAEL."

2. PAPERS ALSO REPORTED PROMINENTLY ON STATEMENT TO TIME MAGAZINE ATTRIBUTED TO PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER, WHEREIN HE "HOPED TO MEET WITH SADAT AND ASAD AS FIRST STEP TOWARD ME SETTLEMENT." AHRAH REPORT CITED BELIEF OF "POLITICAL OBSERVERS" THAT USG LIKELY UNDERTAKE CONCRETE STEPS TOWARDS A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION AFTER WALDHEIM SUBMITS REPORT OF HIS TOUR OF REGION NEXT FEBRUARY.

3. ALL PAPERS FURTHER FEATURED MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR AND FAHMY DECEMBER 27, "THIRD MEETING IN A WEEK AT REQUEST OF US AMBASSADOR", LABELING IT AS PART OF CONTACTS WITH US AND USSR "TO CLEARLY DEFINE THEIR PLANS FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE."

4. CONTINUING STANDARD THEME OF PROBABLE ISRAELI PERFDY VIS-A-VIS GENEVA, OFFICIALLY-INSPIRED AHRAH EDITORIAL STATES THAT GENEVA UNLIKELY TO BE END OF AFFAIR. ALTHOUGH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONDITIONS FAVOR ARRIVING AT JUST SOLUTION AND CHANCE OF SUCCESS PRESENTLY APPEARS GOOD, AHRAH SAID, ISRAEL "WITH HER BACK TO THE WALL AND FACING TOTAL PEACE, MAY RESORT TO CHARACTERISTIC METHODS TO ABORT CHANCES OF SUCCESS AT GENEVA. POSSIBILITIES CITED INCLUDE ISRAELI REJECTION OF PALESTINIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPRESENTATION AT CONFERENCE, PROCRASTINATION ON SUBJECT OF WITHDRAWAL, ARTIFICIAL ATTEMPTS AT ADJOURNING CONFERENCE, OR NEW MILITARY ACTION OR EXPLOITATION OF "ANY NEW INTERNATIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES." ARABS SHOULD BE SURE NOT TO CREATE IMPRESSION THAT THEY PUTTING ALL THEIR EGGS IN ONE BASKET AND, AHRAH REMINDS, GOE POSITION CLEAR THAT "WAR MIGHT BE THE ALTERNATIVE TO FAILURE AT GENEVA."

5. COMMENT: SUSTAINED PROCESS OF SIGNALLING AND POSTURING BEING UNDERTAKEN BY EGYPTIANS, WITH HELP OF SYRIANS, SEEMS TO BE LARGELY PUBLIC THUS FAR. CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS (REF A), FAHMY HAS IN EFFECT MADE NO DIRECT REQUEST FOR "VISULIZATION" IN SERIES OF RECENT MEETINGS WITH AMBASSADOR, SOVIETS CLAIM NO SUCH REQUEST MADE, AND EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES ALSO TELL US THAT NO PRIVATE APPEALS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR STAND BY EUROPE, SINGLEY OR TOGETHER, ON MIDDLE EAST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PEACE PLANS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO17834
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760473-1271
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976128/aaaaaghk.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 CAIRO 17723, 77 CAIRO 17786
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <07 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOE STEPS UP PUBLIC ASPECTS OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE OFFENSIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, US, UR, XF, XG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006